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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

INDRA AND SHACHI

THE LORD OF HEAVEN AND HIS DEVOTED WIFE

Vol 567 | Rs 50

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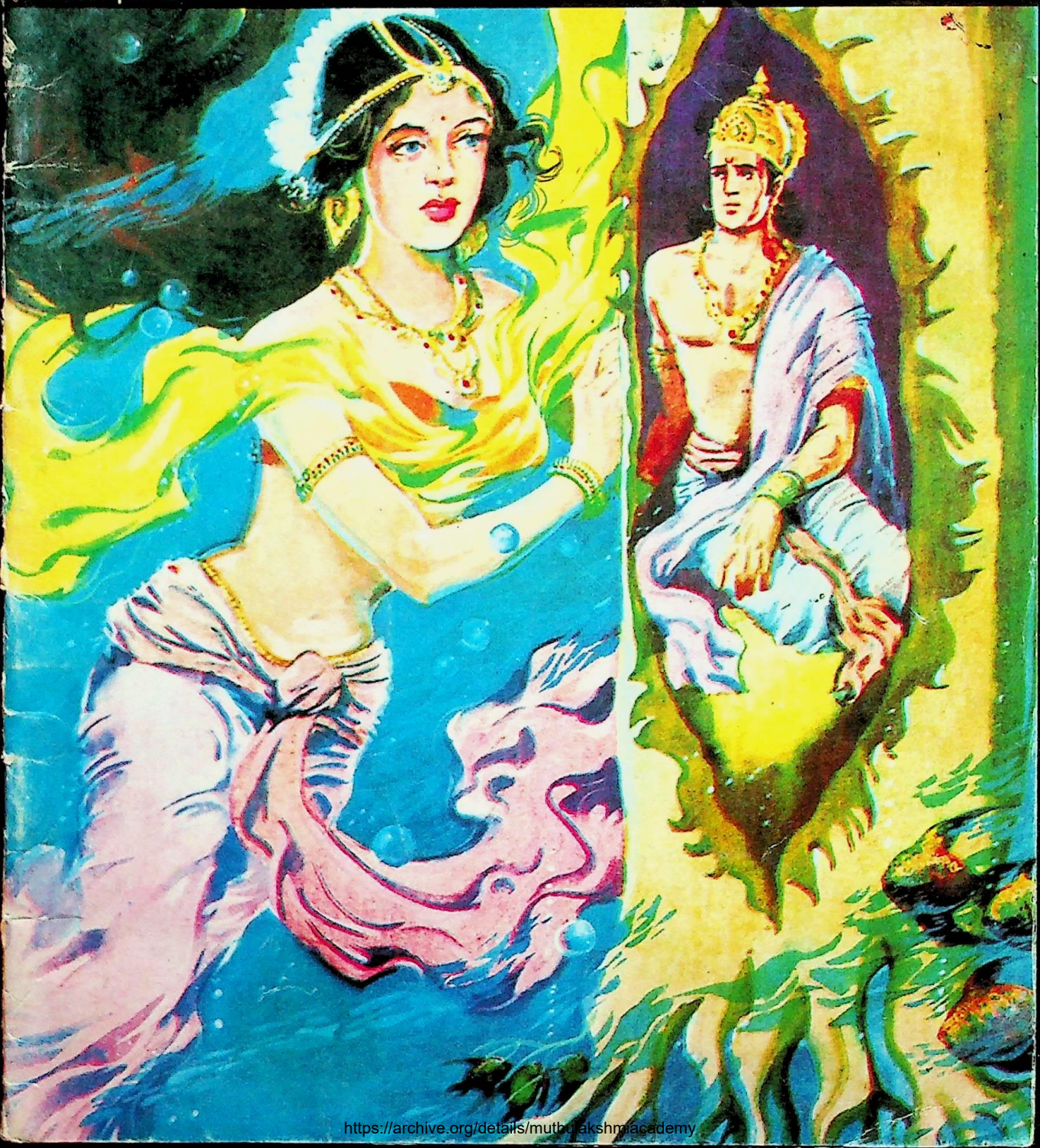

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Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

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Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., The Forum, 3rd Floor, Raghuvanshi Mill Compound, S.B.Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai- 400 013. India
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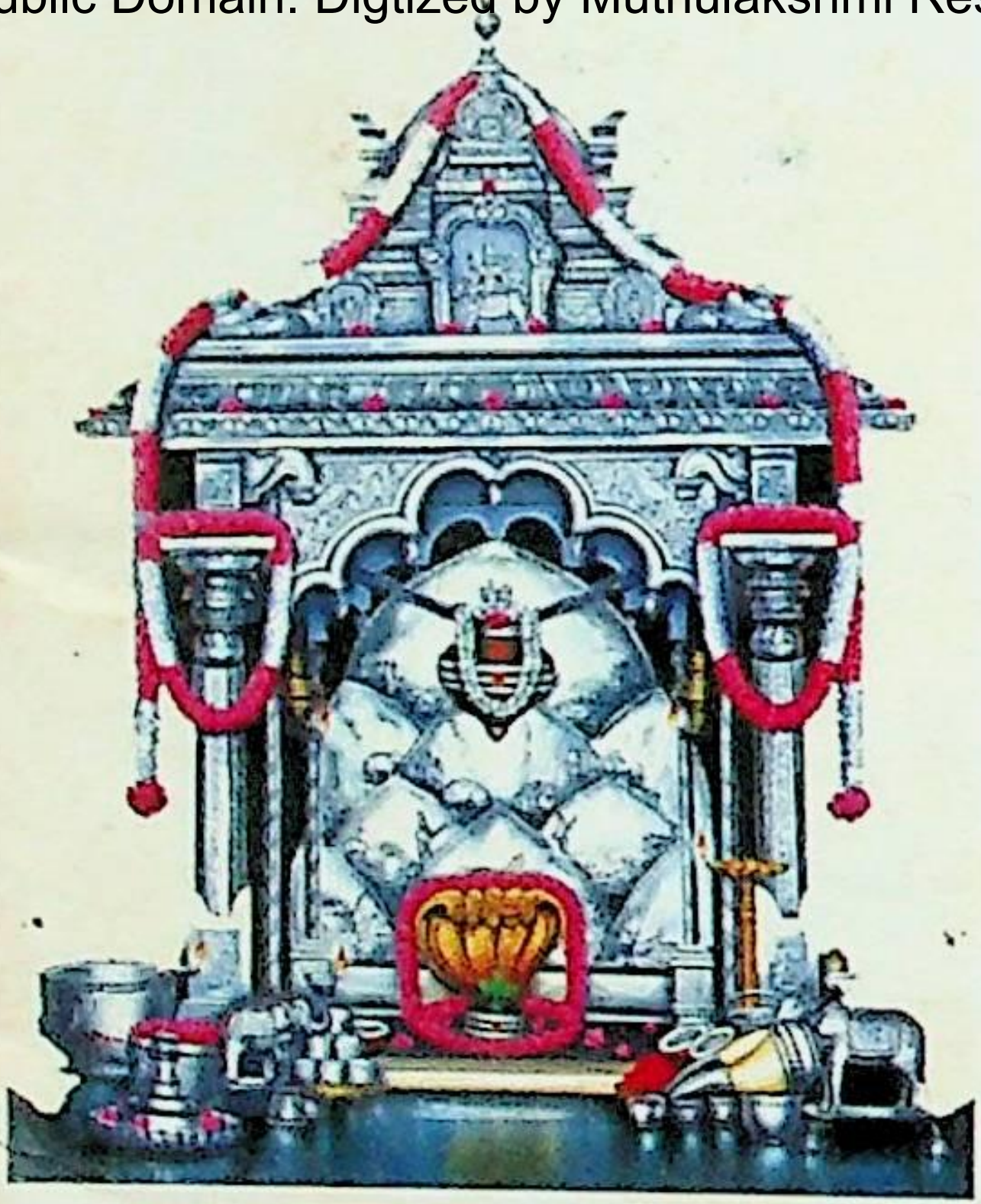

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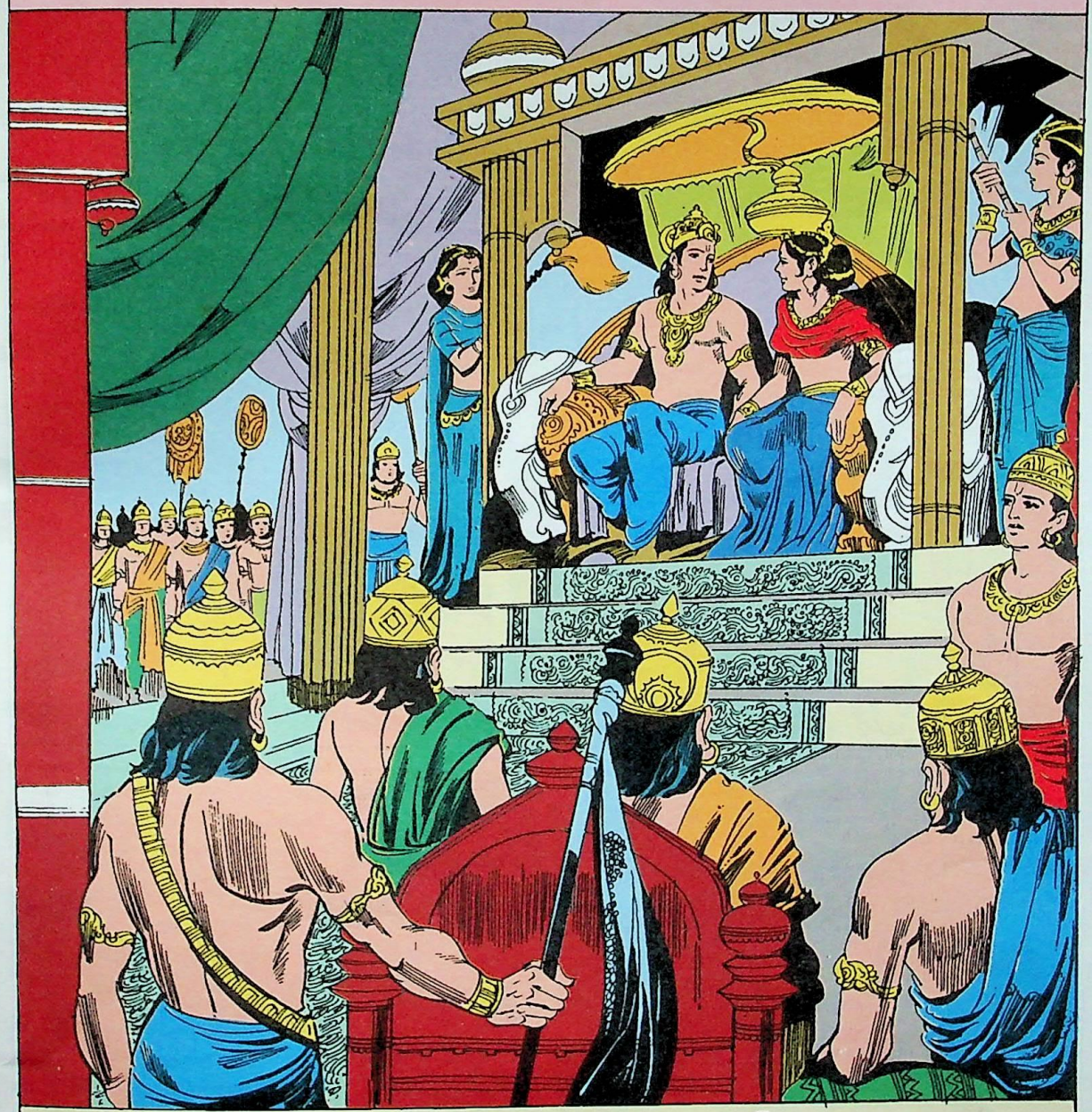
INDRA AND SHACHI



INDRA WAS THE KING OF THE DEVAS. HE LIVED WITH HIS QUEEN, SHACHI IN HIS CELESTIAL CITY, AMARAVATI.

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INDRA HEARD OF TRISHIRAS AND OF HIS INTENSE PENANCE TO DESTROY HIM. HE SENT FOR THE APSARAS, THE CELESTIAL MAIDENS...

YOU MUST DISTRACT TRISHIRAS AND BREAK HIS PENANCE.

WE WILL LEAD HIM AWAY FROM MEDITATION INTO A LIFE OF PLEASURE.

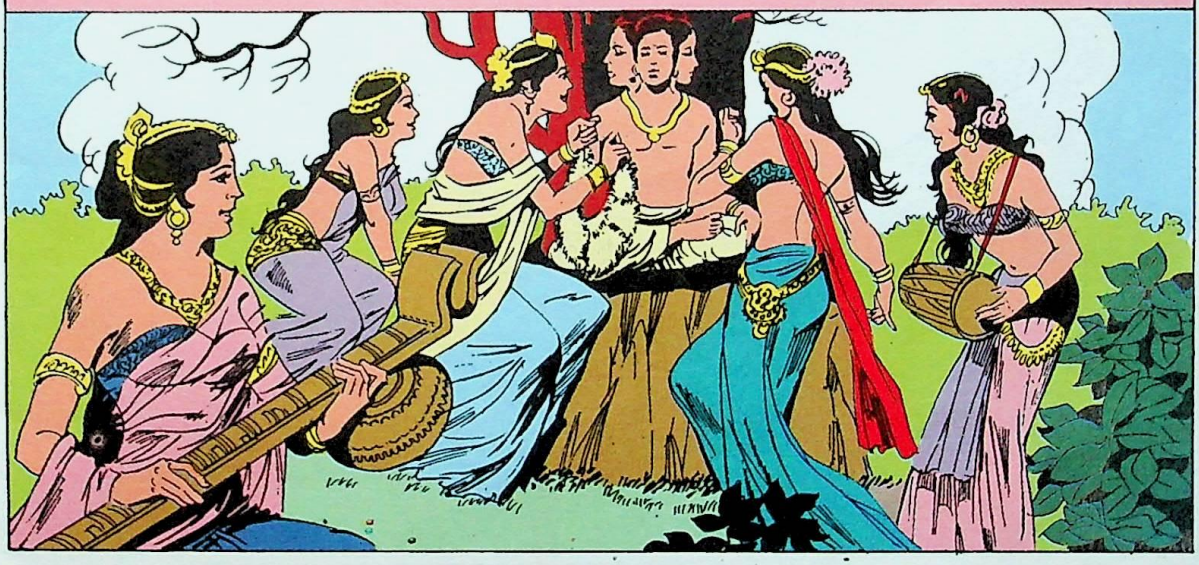
THE APSARAS PREPARED THEMSELVES.

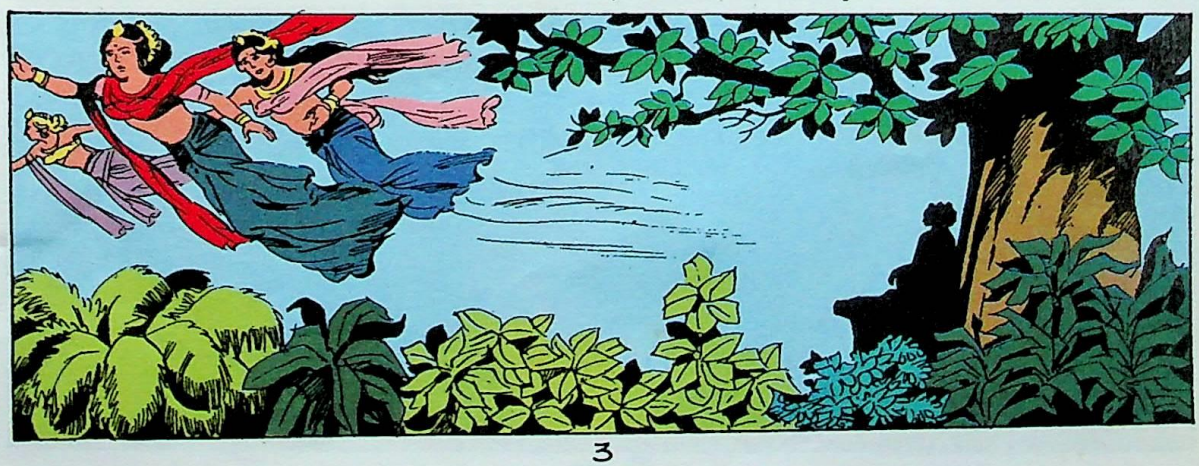
WE WILL TEMPT HIM WITH THESE FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

I WILL DANCE.

YOUR VOICE IS SWEET AND ENCHANT-ING. YOU MUST SING.

THEIR CHARMS WERE HEAVENLY. BUT TRISHIRAS WAS UNMOVED.





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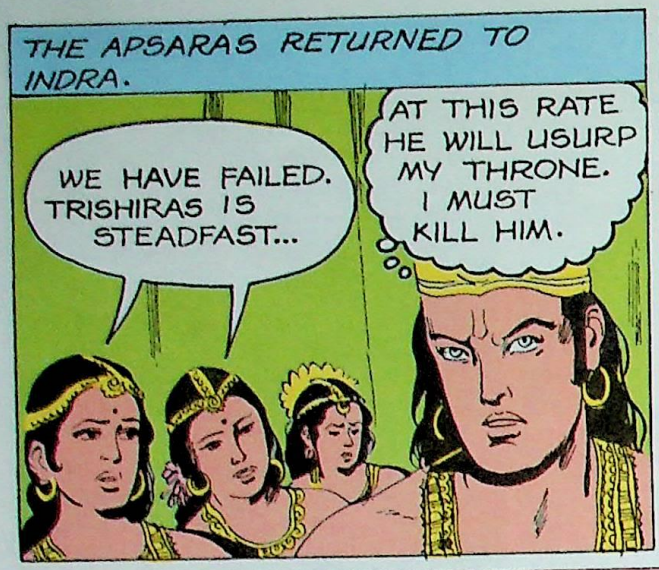

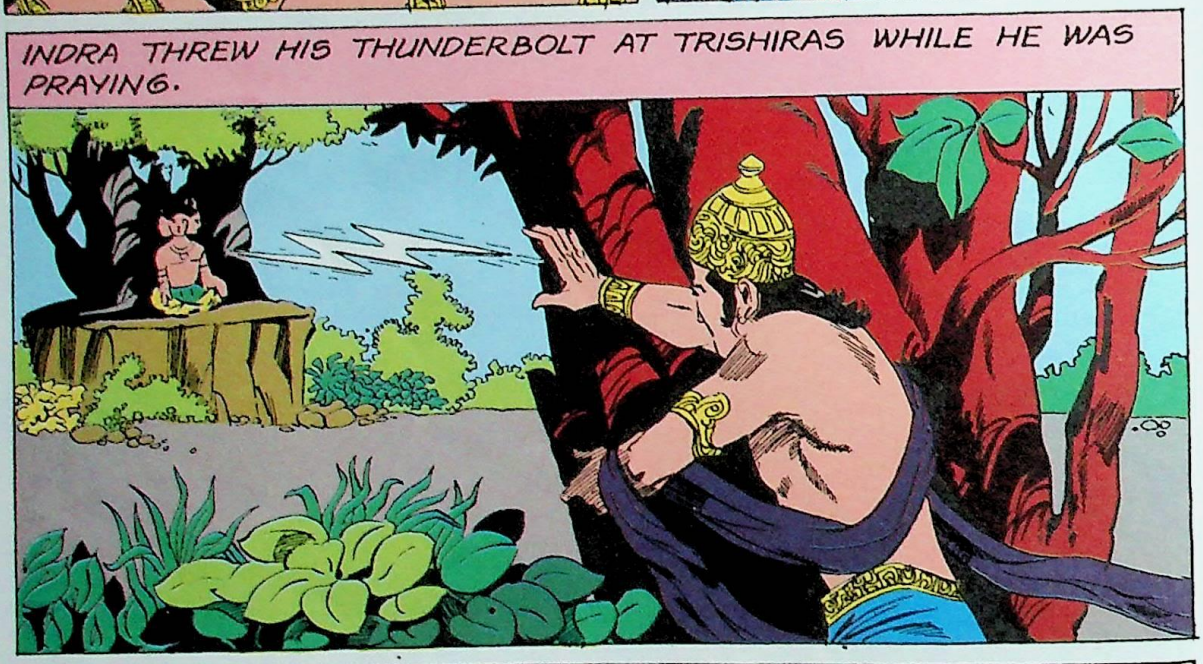

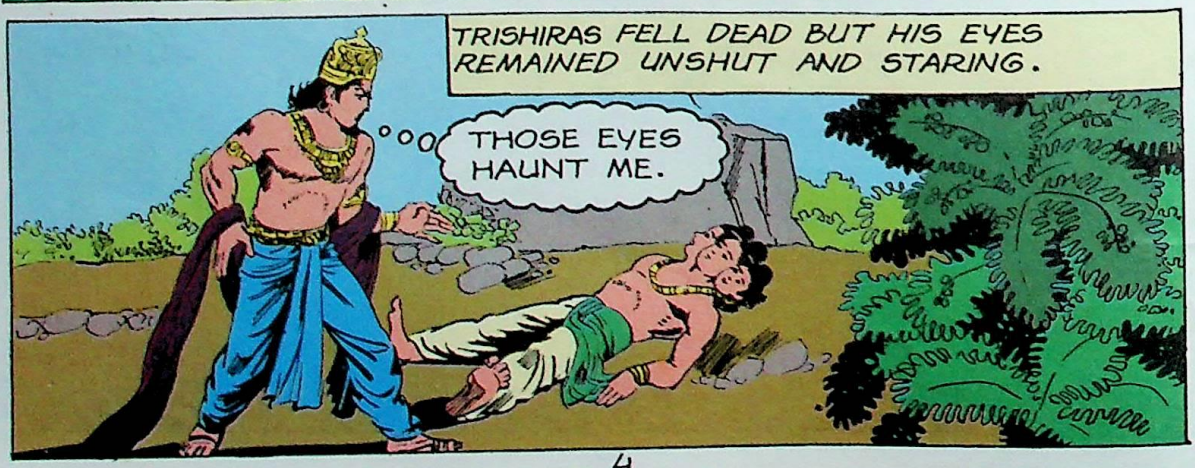

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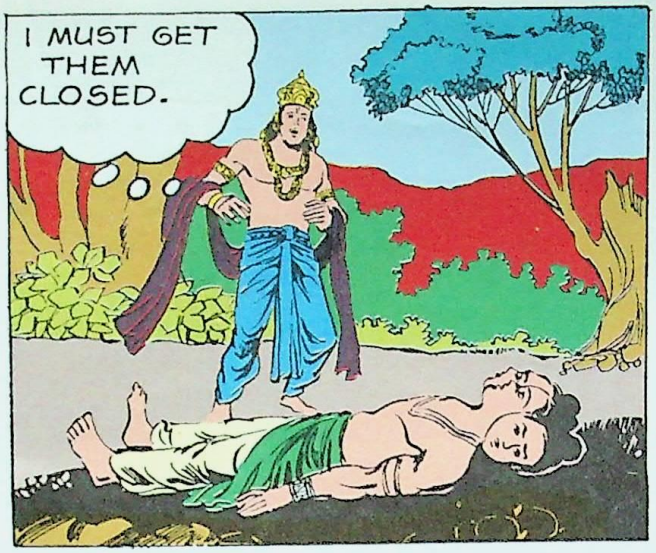
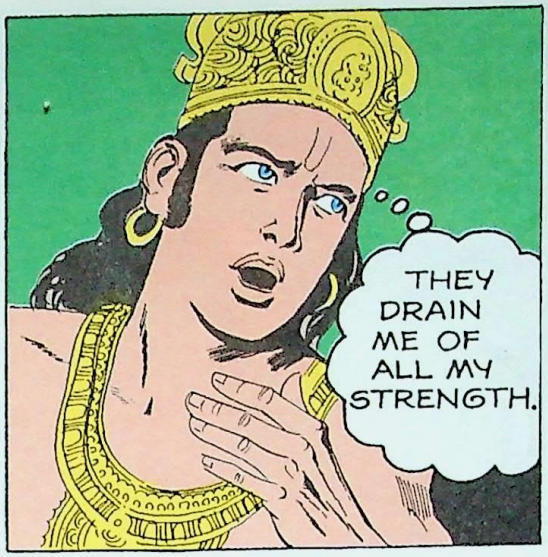
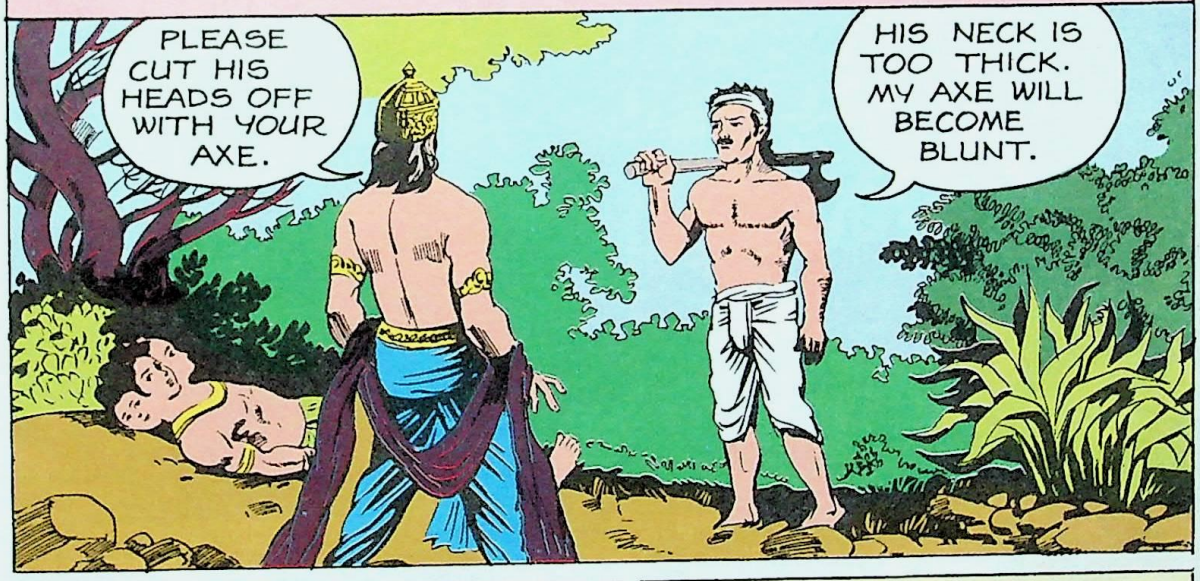
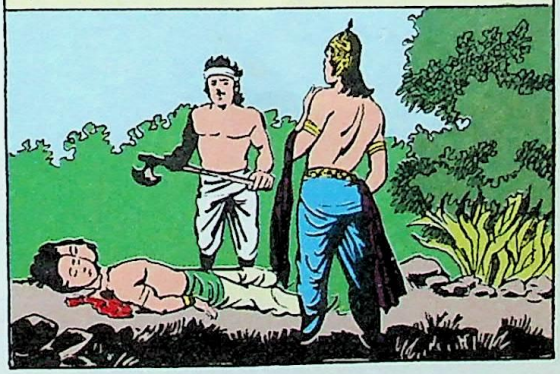




AT THAT MOMENT A WOODCUTTER HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



THE WOODCUTTER CUT TRISHIRAS' HEADS OFF.



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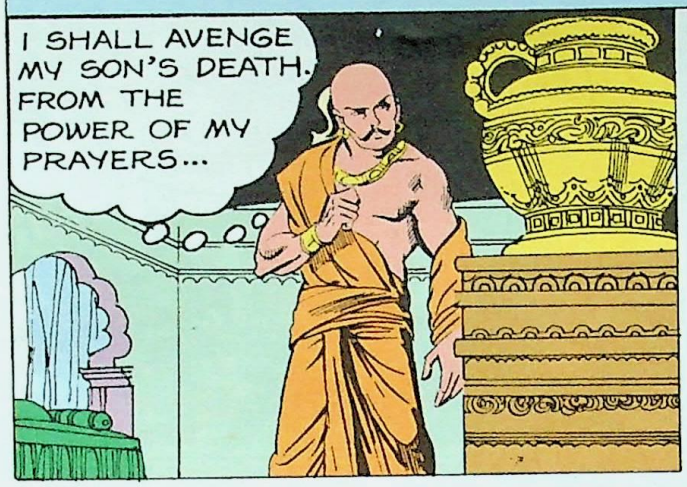
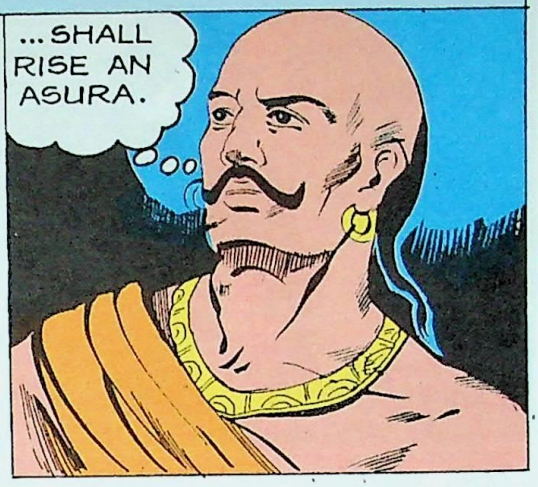
MEANWHILE TVASHTA HEARD OF TRISHIRAS' DEATH. HE WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED AND VERY ANGRY.





TVASHTA PERFORMED A SACRIFICE AND CREATED AN ASURA.

WHEN INDRA HEARD OF VRITRA, HE PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.

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THERE WAS A TERRIBLE BATTLE IN WHICH VRITRA CAUGHT INDRA BETWEEN HIS TEETH.

HE HAS CAUGHT INDRA.

QUICK! HAND ME THE *JRIMBHAKA ASTRA.

THE JRIMBHAKA ASTRA FOUND ITS MARK.

I CANNOT CONTROL THESE YAWNS. THAT ASTRA DOES IT.

THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR ME.

VRITRA YAWNED...

INDRA MADE HIMSELF TINY AND ESCAPED.

* AN ARROW WHICH MAKES A MAN YAWN.

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HE AND HIS SUBJECTS WENT TO VISHNU FOR ADVICE.

LORD, HELP US.

MAKE PEACE WITH VRITRA. THEN WATCH FOR YOUR CHANCE TO KILL HIM. I WILL HELP YOU.

INDRA MADE PEACE WITH VRITRA. BUT VRITRA WAS WARY.

LET US BE FRIENDS! I ADMIRE YOU!

ALL RIGHT. BUT ON MY CONDITIONS.

YOU MUST NOT KILL ME WITH ANY WEAPON- WET OR DRY, OF WOOD OR OF STONE...

...BY DAY OR BY NIGHT!

I AGREE.

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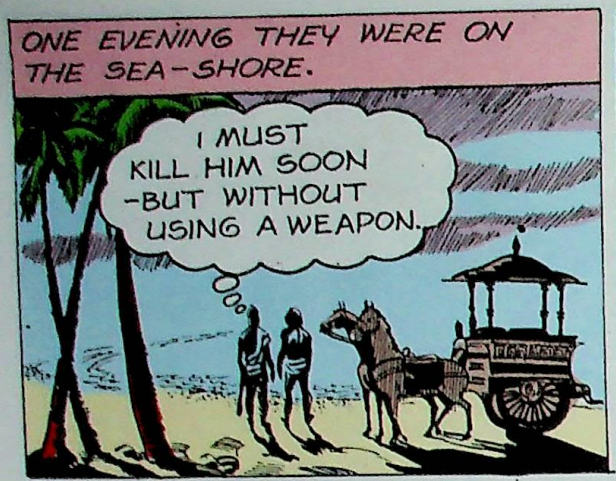

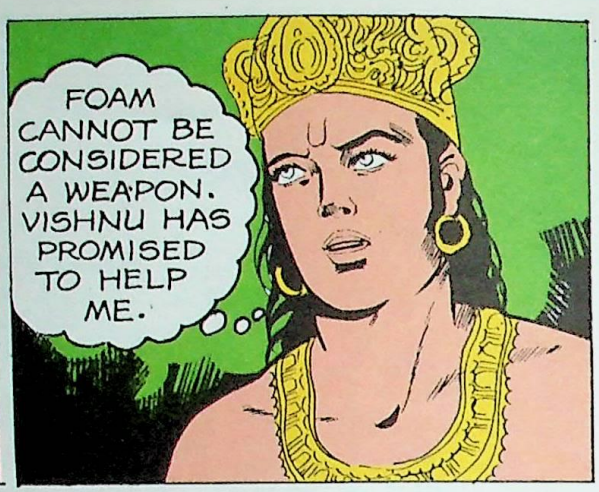

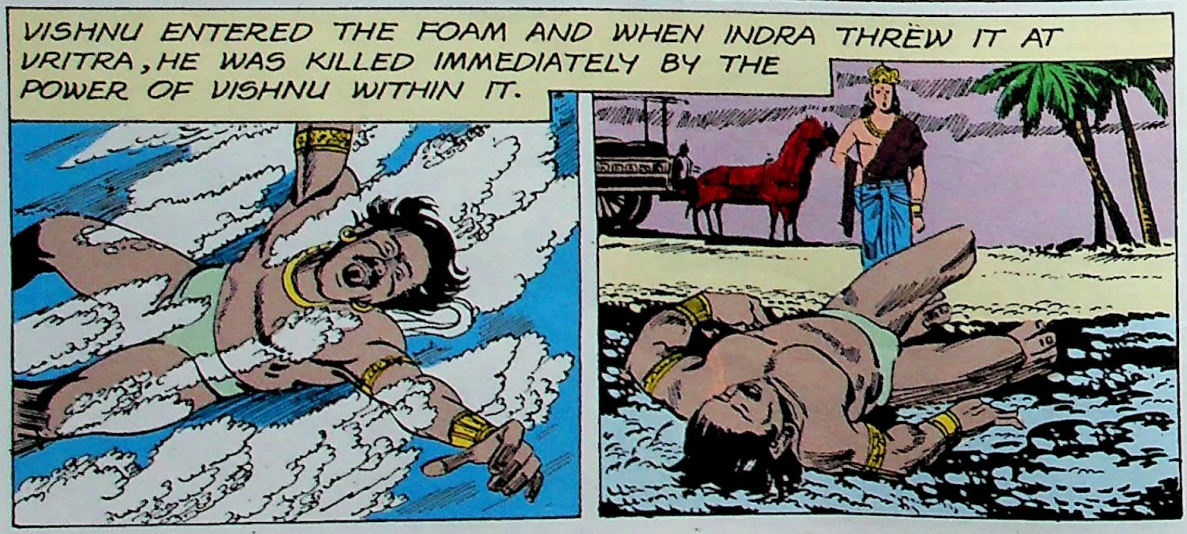

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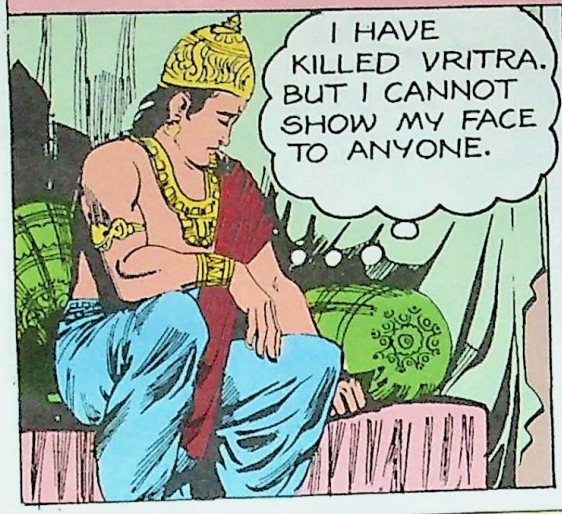
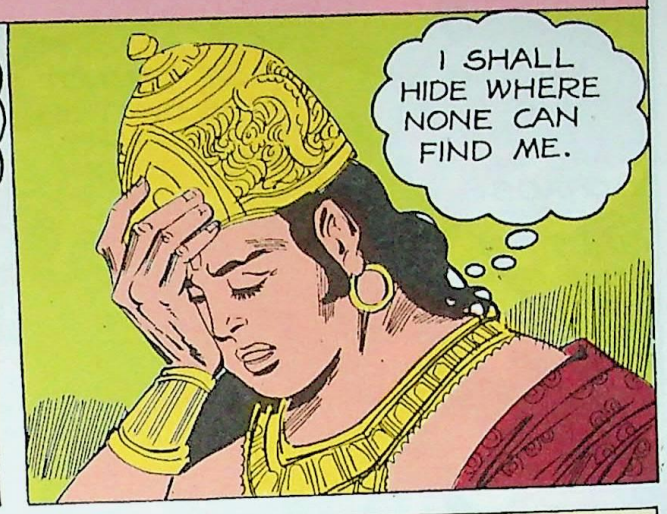
BUT AS INDRA HAD BETRAYED VRITRA HE WAS ASHAMED TO FACE THE WORLD.





INDRA RAN AWAY. ALL WAS DARKNESS AND CHAOS., ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN.

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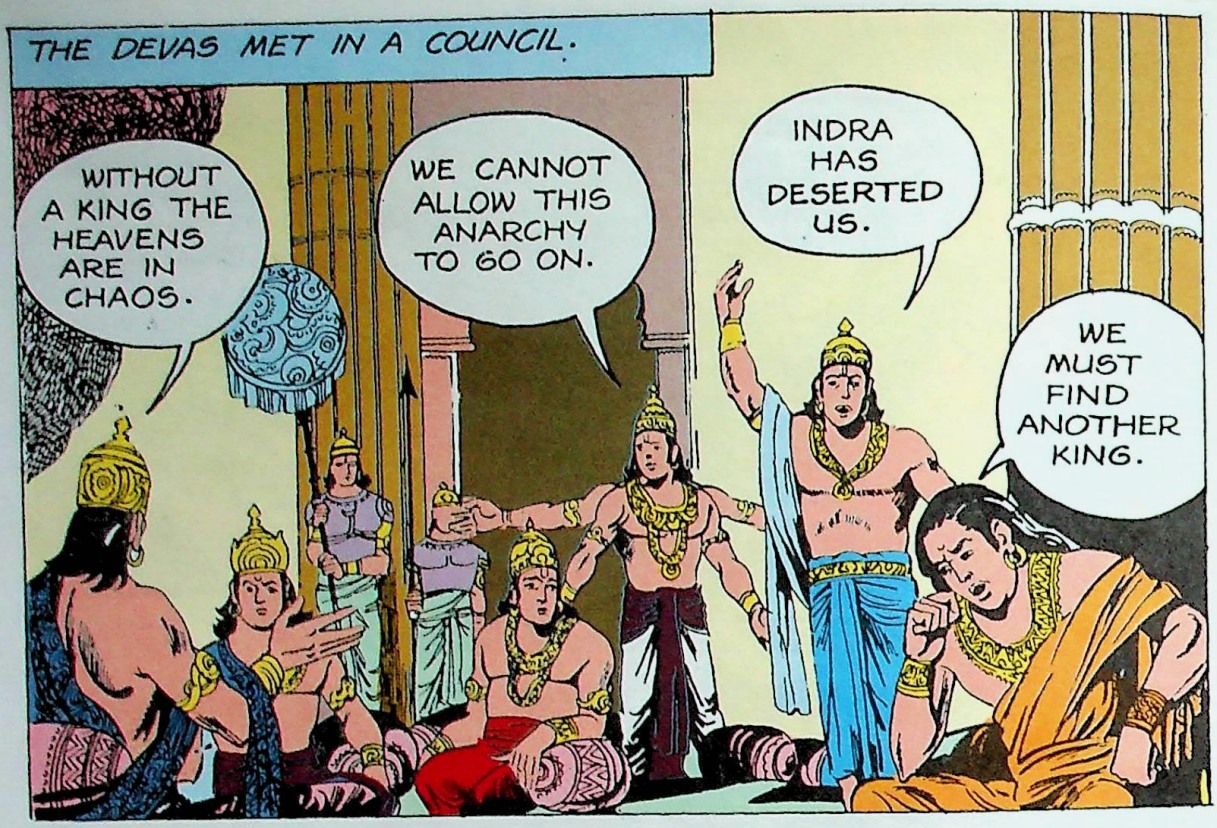

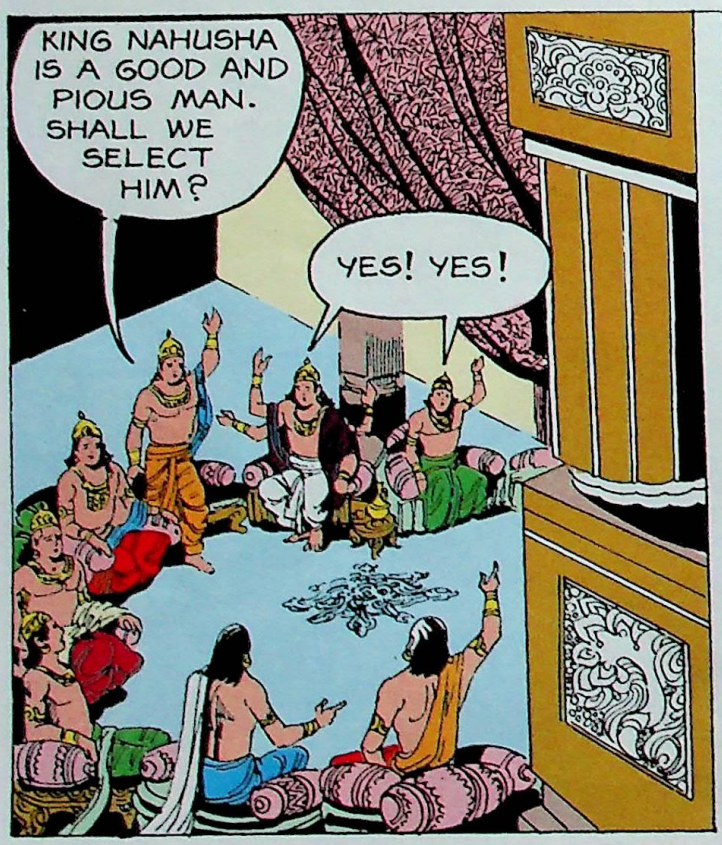

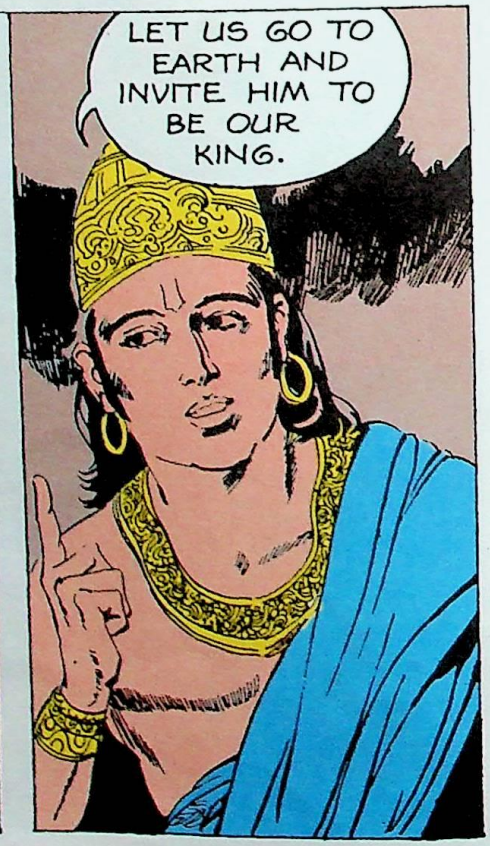

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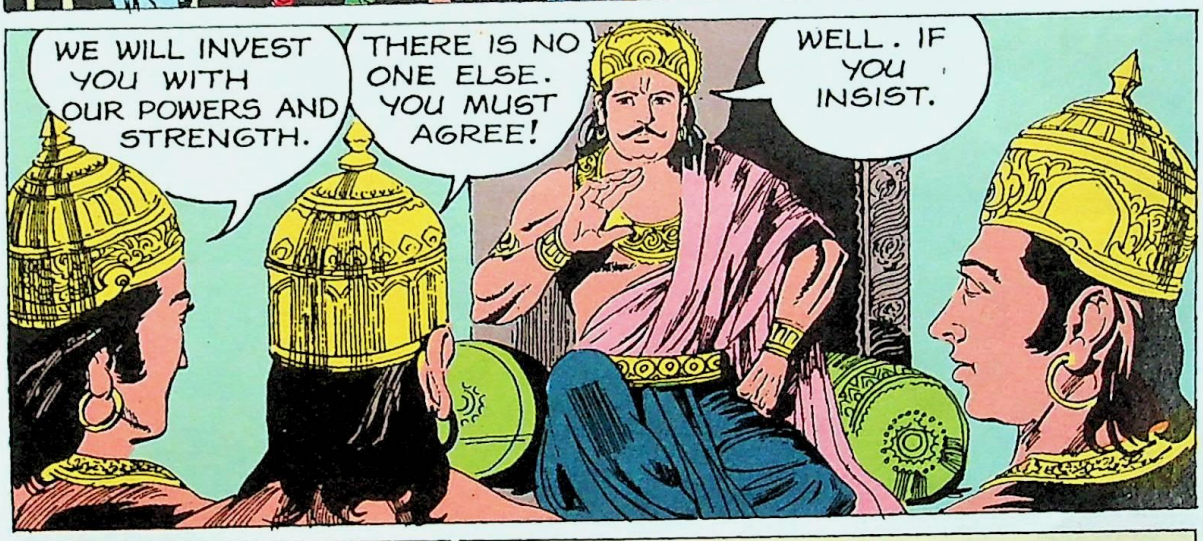
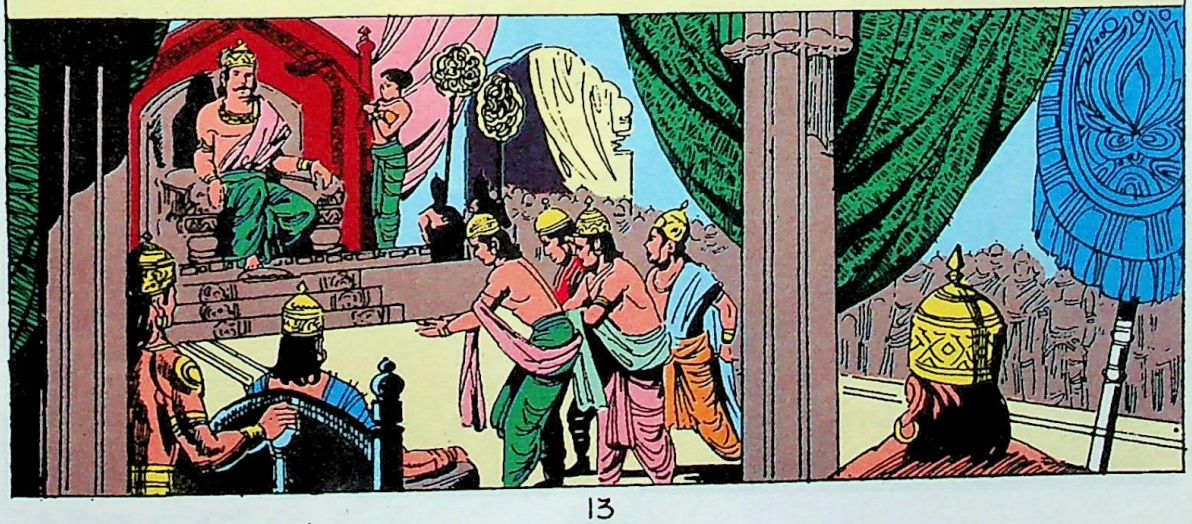
THE DEVAS WENT TO KING NAHUSHA'S COURT.



THE DEVAS MADE NAHUSHA THEIR KING.



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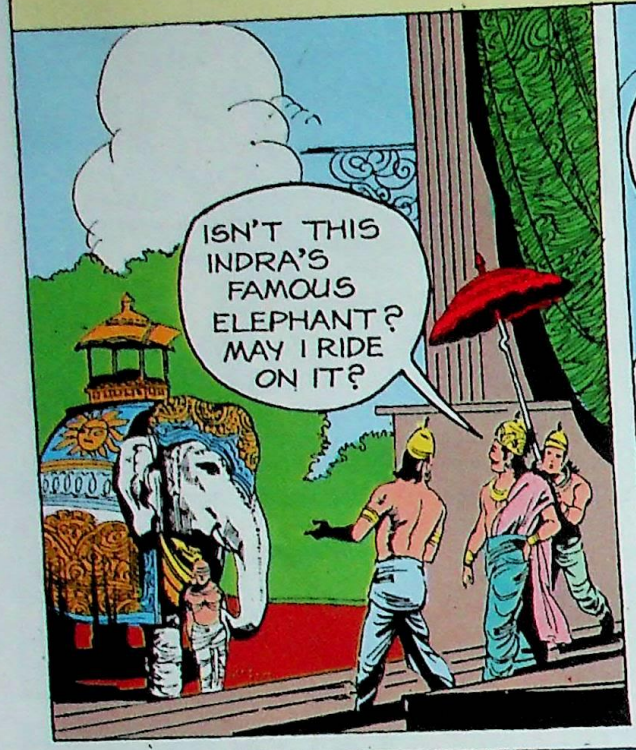
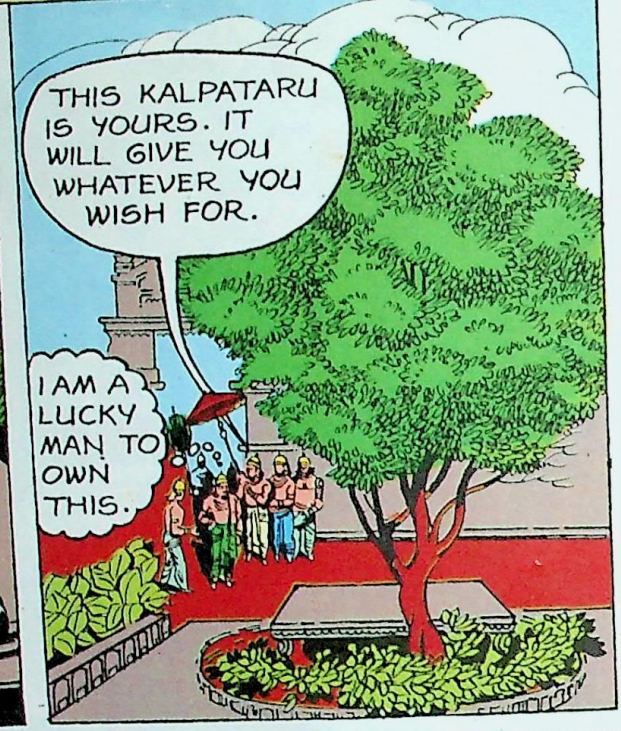
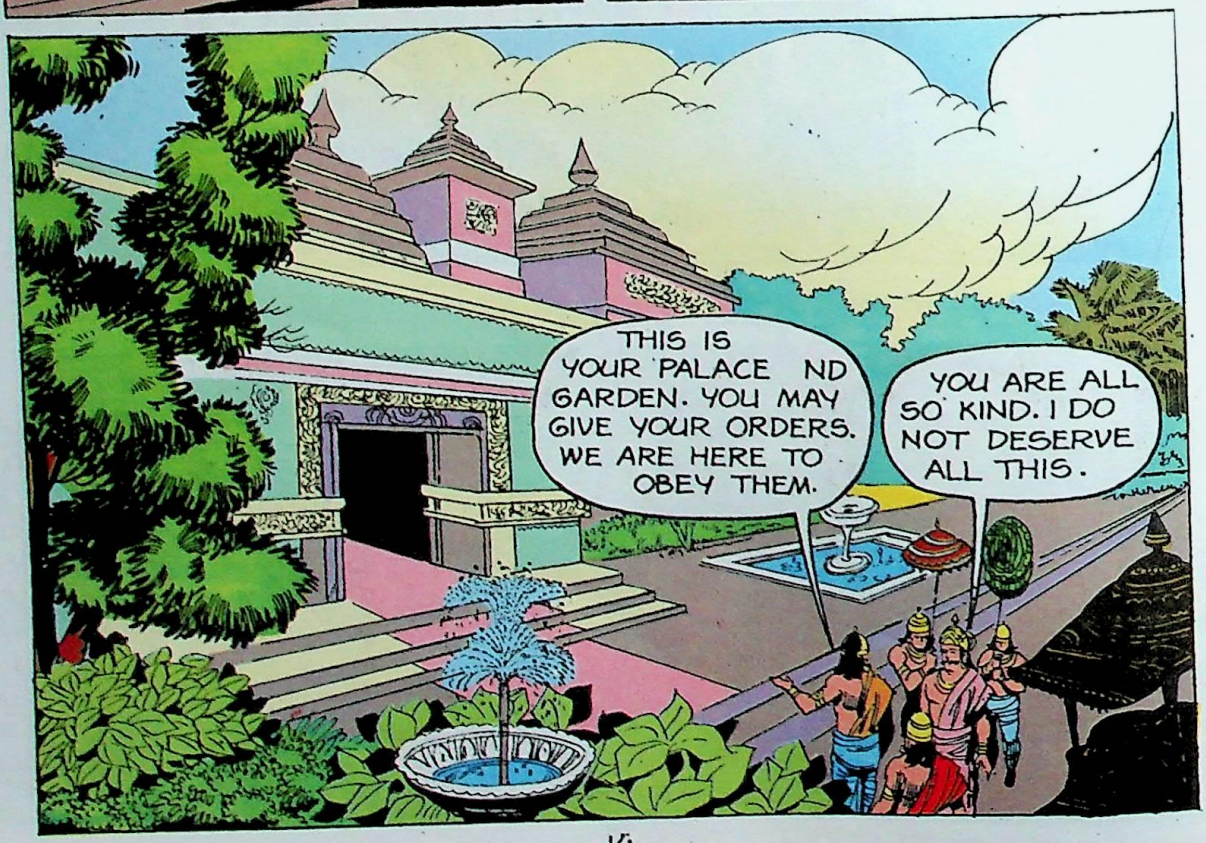
NAHUSHA ENJOYED ALL THE CELESTIAL PLEASURES.







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BUT ALAS! NAHUSHA SOON BECAME CONCEITED AND ARROGANT.

WHO IS THAT BEING WHO GOES PAST WITHOUT BOWING TO HIS KING? BRING HIM HERE!

THE DEVAS WERE VERY UNHAPPY.

* THE GODS OF WIND.

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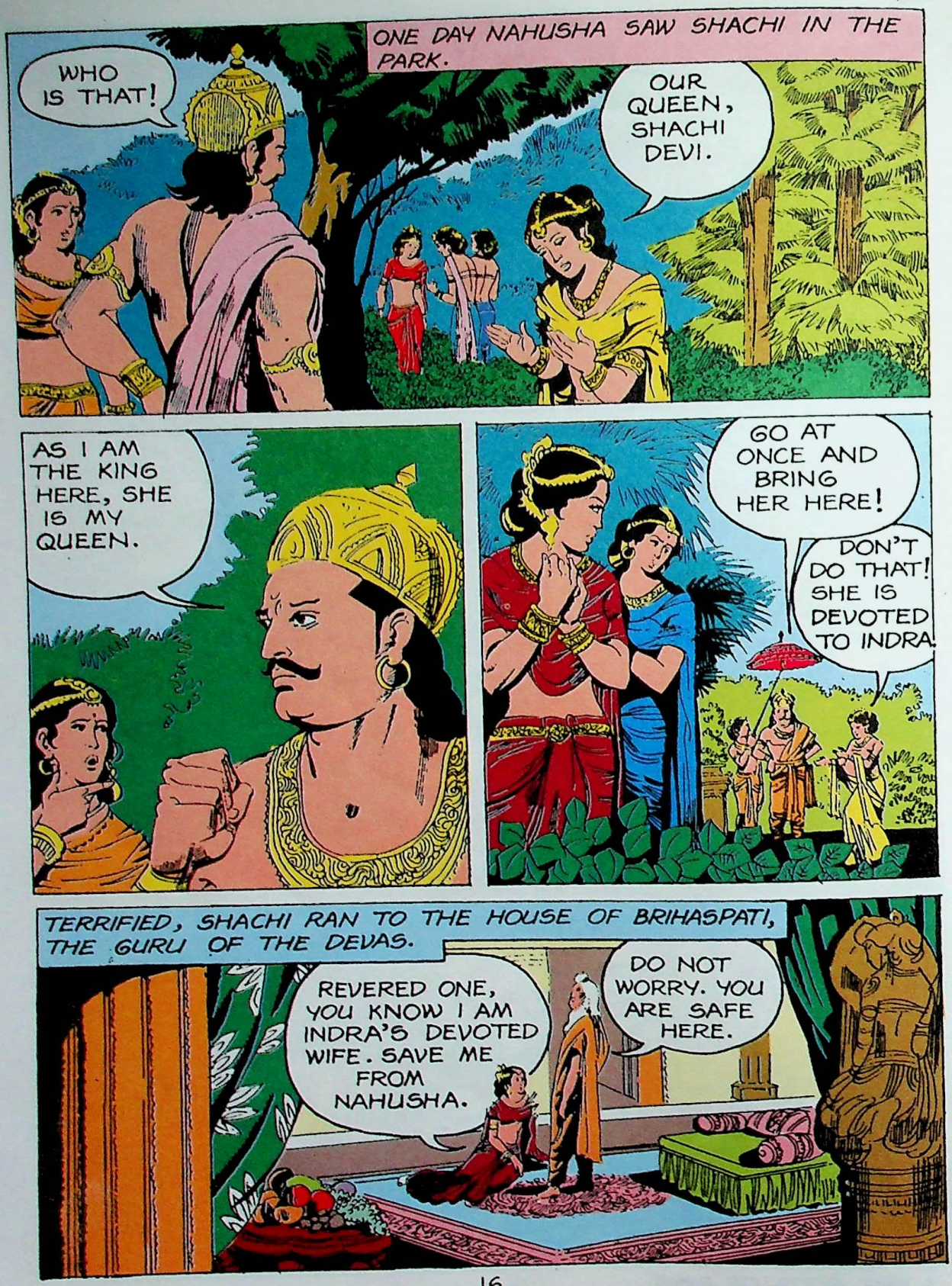

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NAHUSHA WAS VERY ANGRY WHEN HE HEARD THAT SHACHI WAS IN BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.

GO AT ONCE AND BRING HER HERE.

YES, SIR.

THE DEVAS TREMBLED BEFORE NAHUSHA'S FURY. THEY RAN TO BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.

YOU MUST SEND OUR QUEEN, SHACHI TO NAHUSHA. OTHERWISE HE WILL DESTROY AMARAVATI IN ANGER.

SHE IS UNDER MY CARE. I WILL NOT FORCE HER TO GO WITH YOU.

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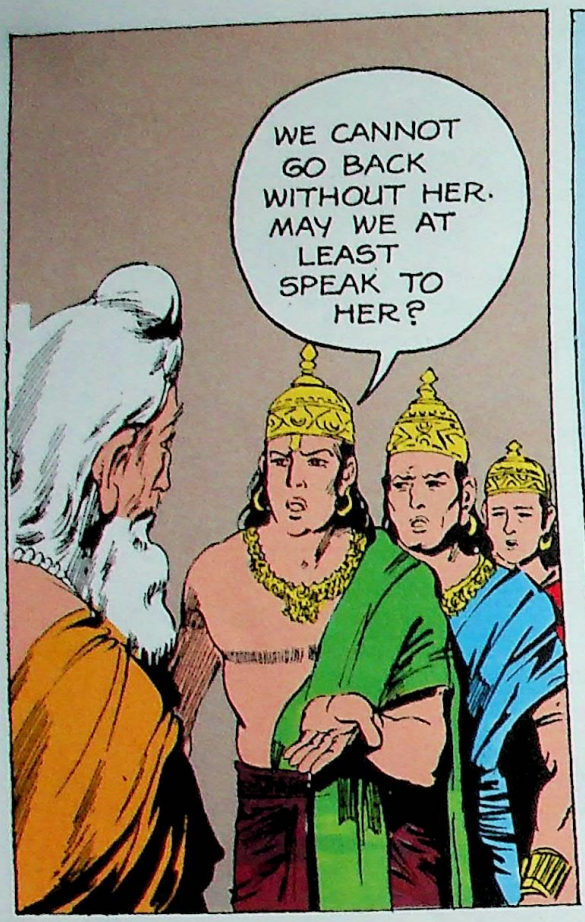

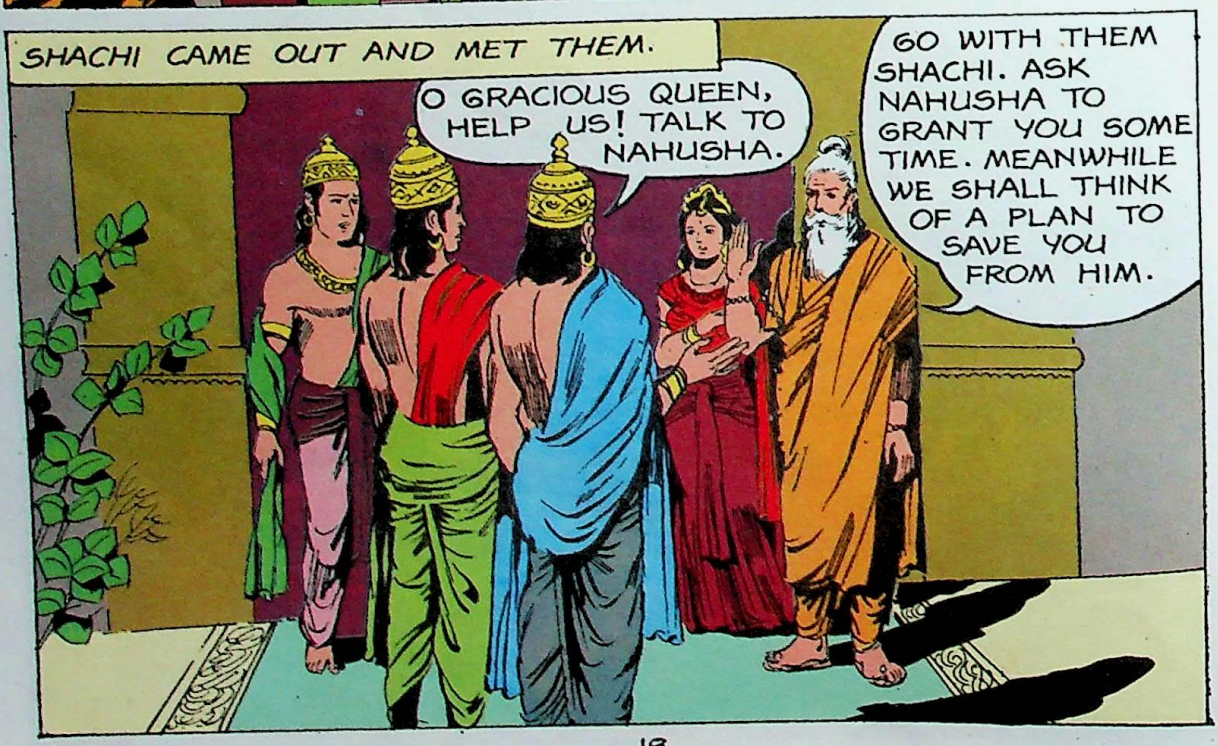

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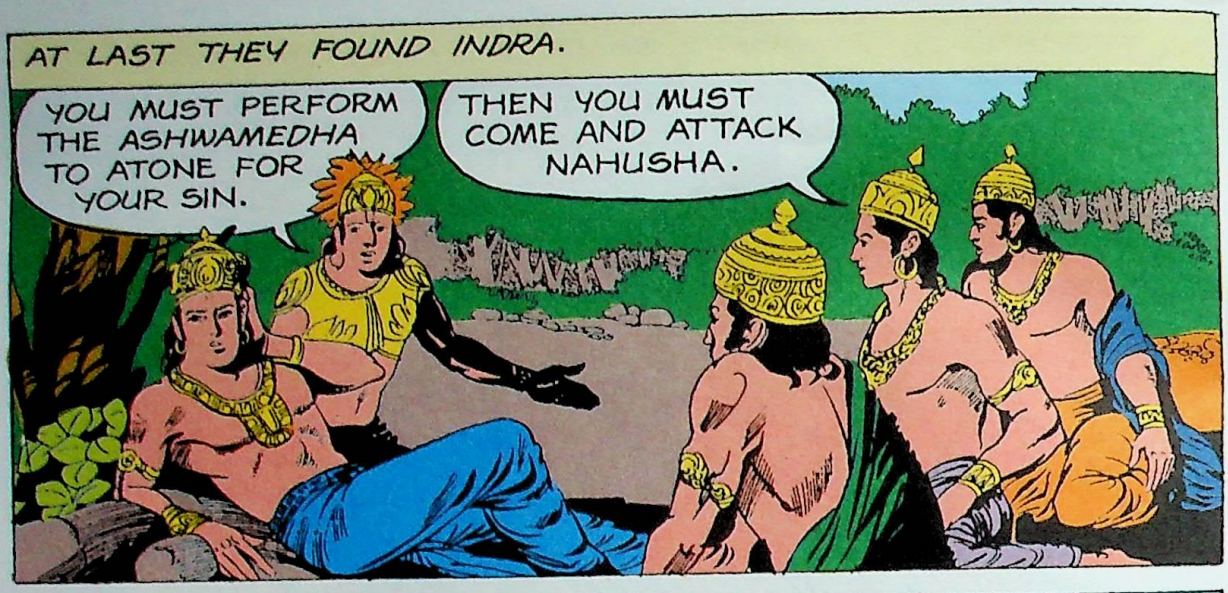

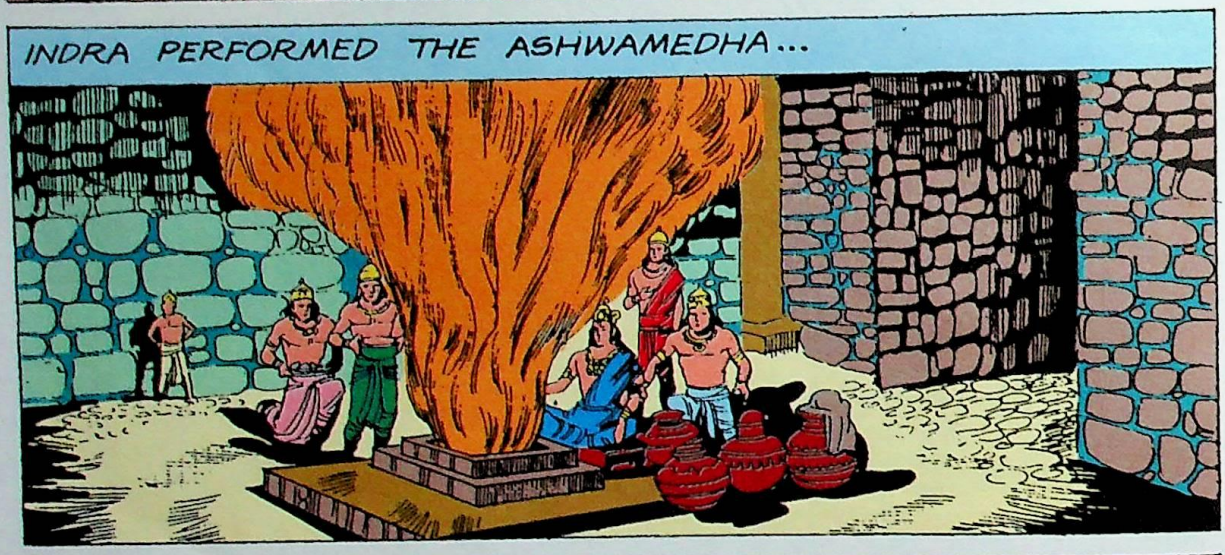

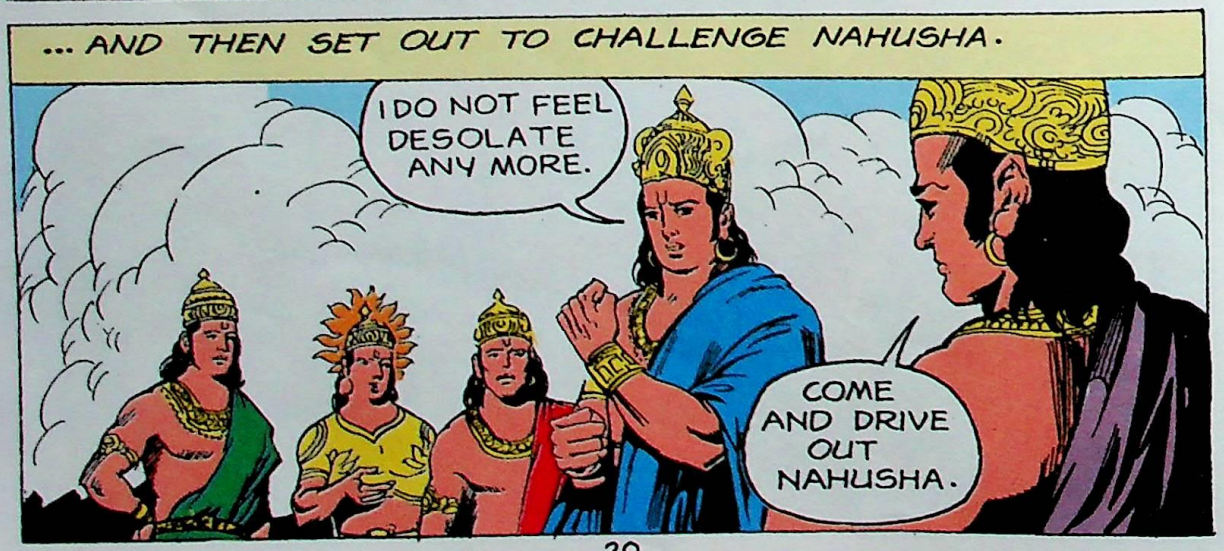

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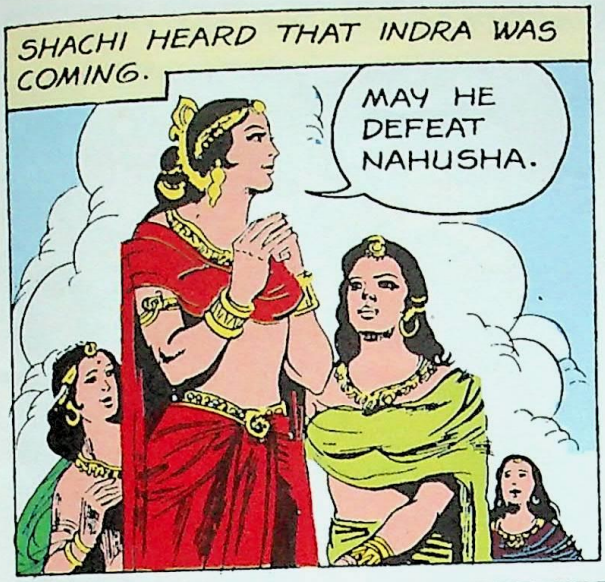

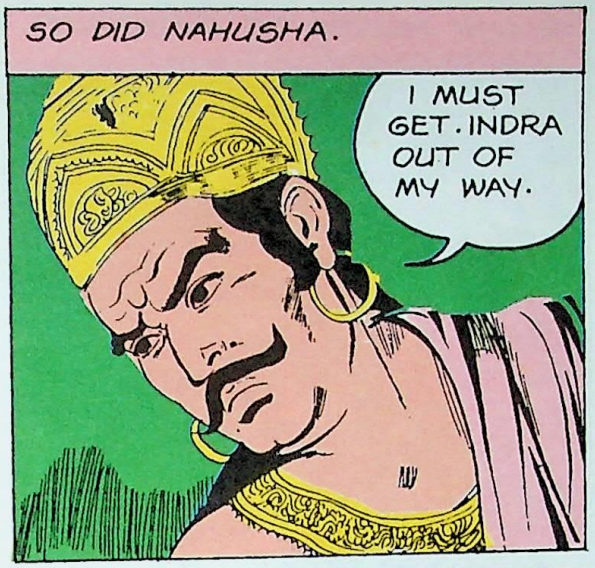

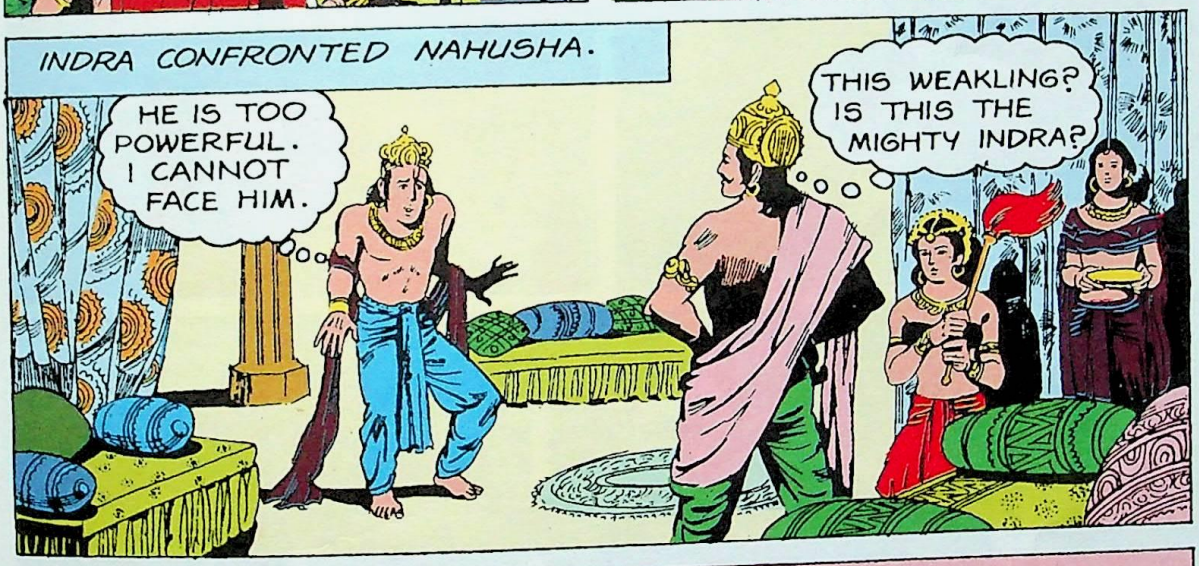

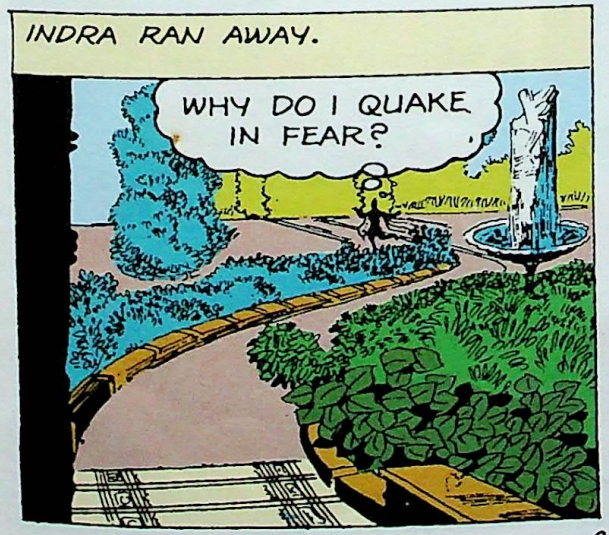

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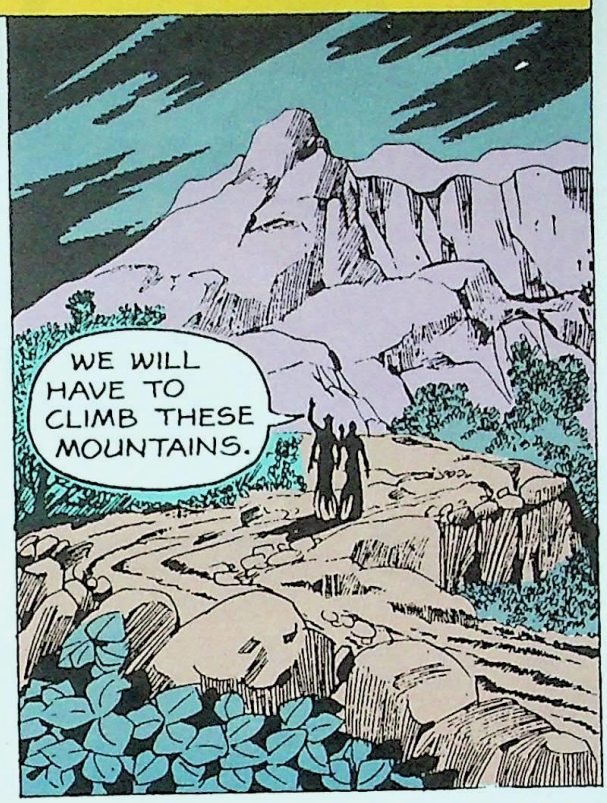
UPASHRUTI LED SHACHI INTO THE DARK NIGHT.



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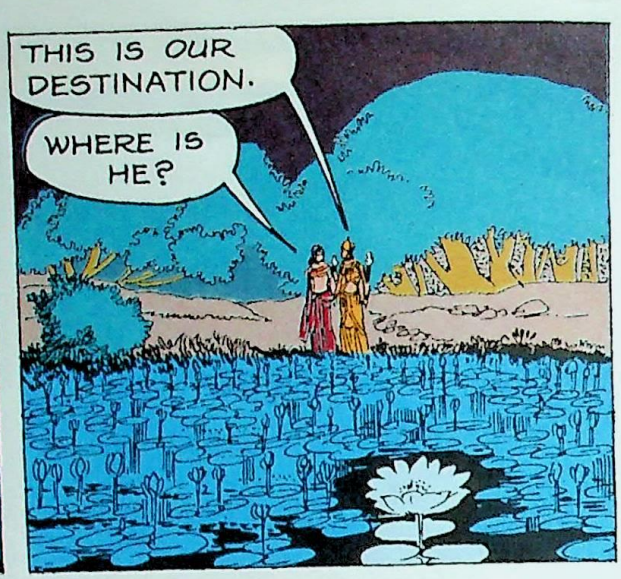

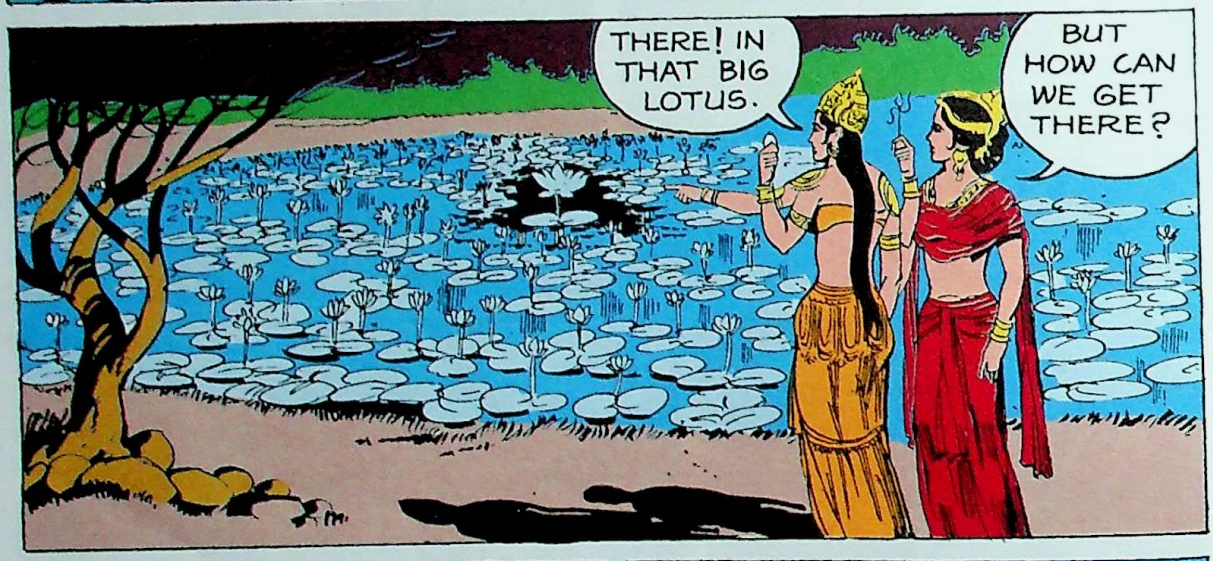

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UPASHRUTI SLIT THE STEM. INSIDE COWERED A TINY INDRA.

HOW CAN I GET IN THERE AND SPEAK TO HIM?

I WILL MAKE YOU TINY LIKE HIM.

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

LORD! YOU DO NOT KNOW MY PLIGHT.

AFTER SHACHI HAD EXPLAINED THE WHOLE SITUATION—

YOU MUST SAVE ME, OR NAHUSHA WILL MAKE ME HIS QUEEN TOMORROW.

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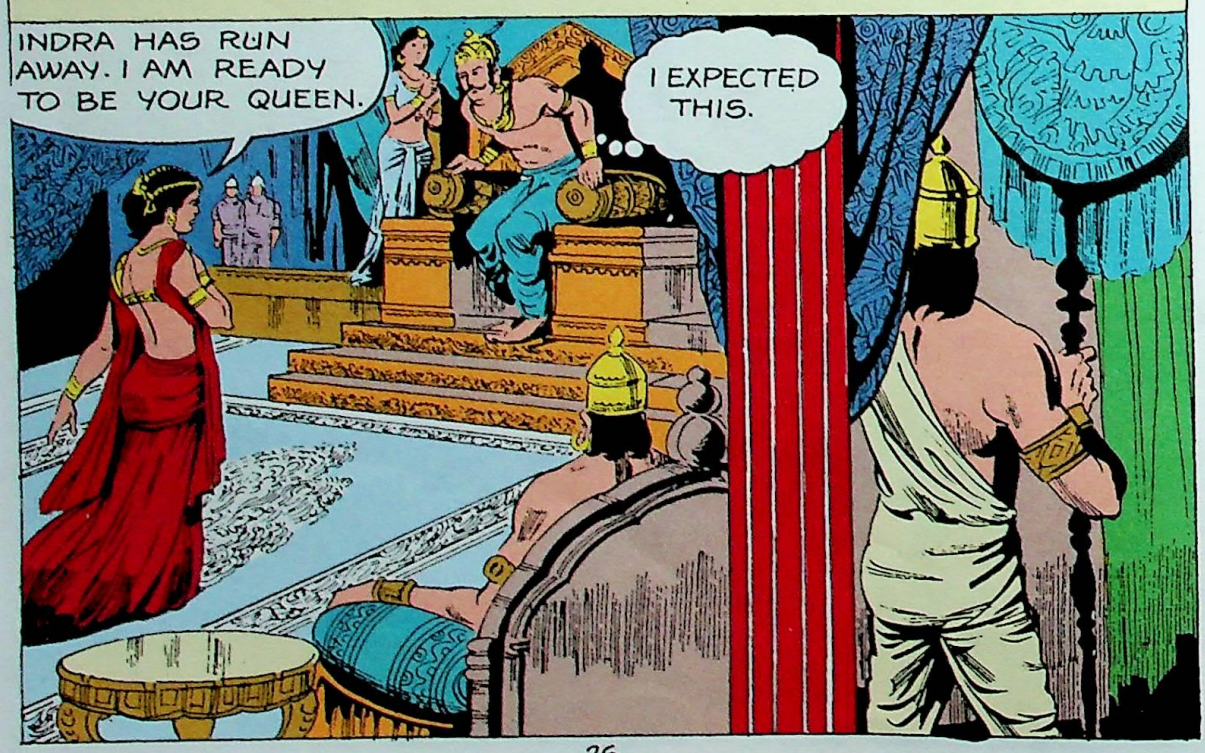
INDRA TOLD HER WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.

THE NEXT MORNING SHACHI WENT TO NAHUSHA.



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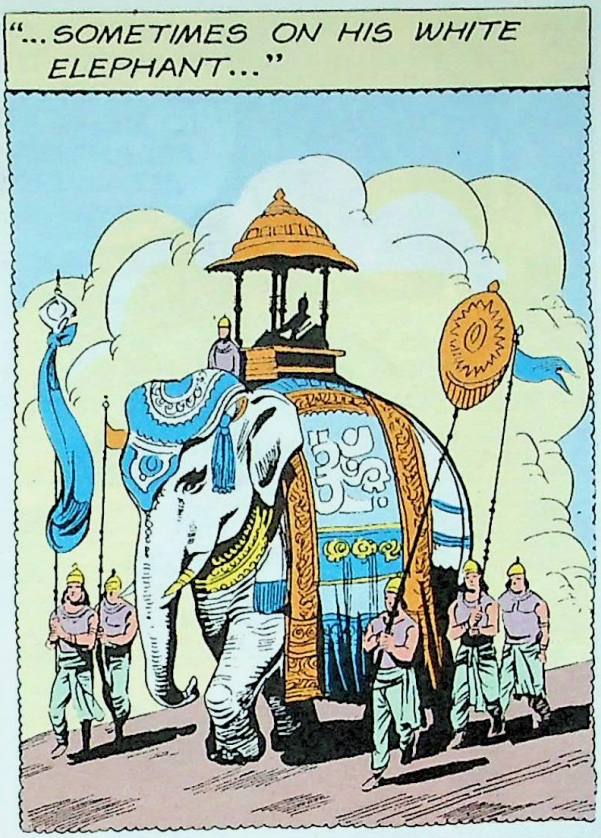

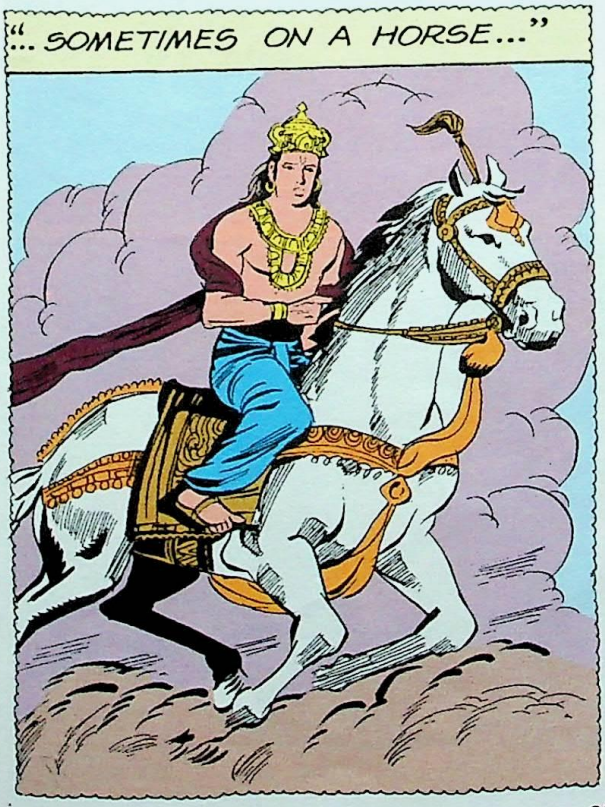

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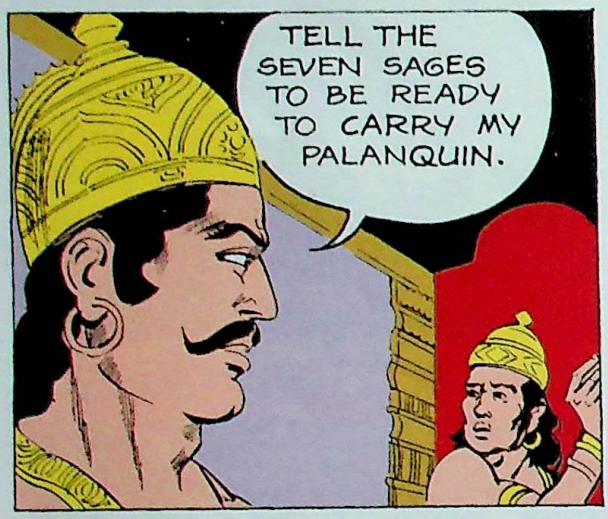

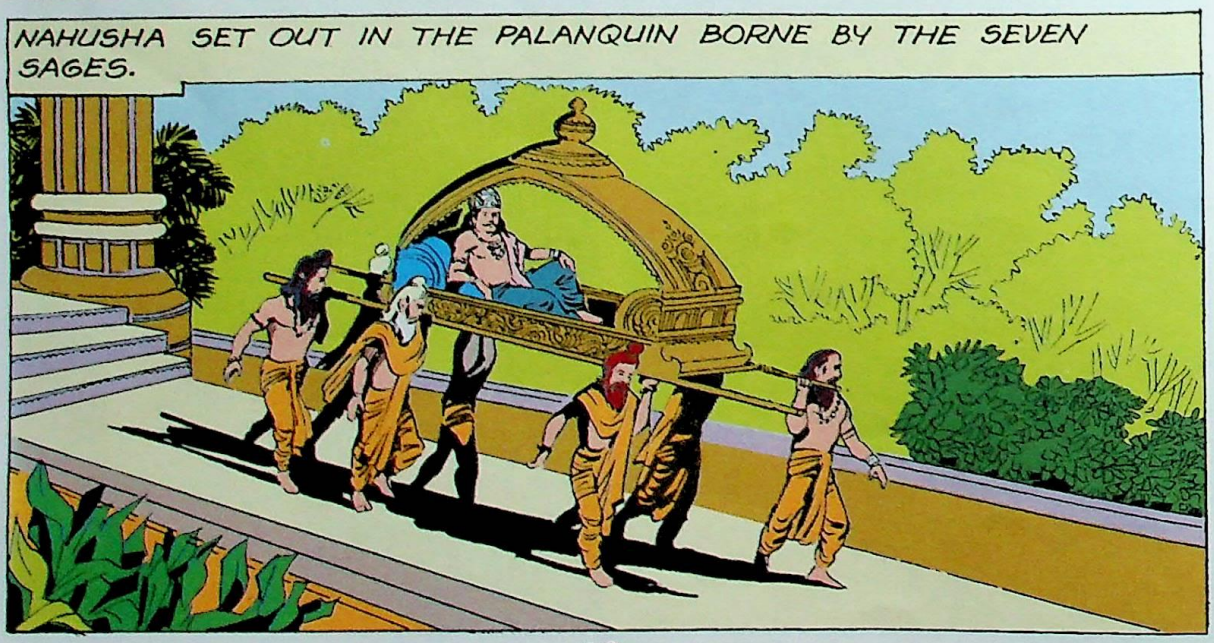

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MEANWHILE SHACHI WENT TO BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.

I HAVE DONE MY PART.

THEN I SHALL SEND FOR INDRA.

BRIHASPATI INVOKED AGNI IN A SACRIFICE.

AGNI! YOU MUST FIND INDRA AND BRING HIM HERE, AT ONCE.

I WILL DO MY BEST. THE MARUTS WILL HELP ME MOVE QUICKLY.

AGNI CALLED THE DEVAS.

THE TIME HAS COME TO FORCE INDRA TO COME HERE.

WE WILL FOLLOW AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN.

WE WILL BLOW YOU AHEAD. THE OTHERS CAN FOLLOW.

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AT THAT MOMENT NAHUSHA WAS ON HIS WAY TO SHACHI'S PALACE.

LAZY FELLOWS! HOW SLOW THEY ARE!

IT IS ALL THE FAULT OF AGASTYA. BECAUSE HE IS SHORT HE CANNOT KEEP PACE WITH THE OTHERS.

I SHALL GOAD HIM ON.

*SARPA! SARPA!

WHEN NAHUSHA KICKED HIM, AGASTYA BECAME ANGRY.

HOW DARE YOU! SARPO BHAVA** MY CURSE WILL TURN YOU INTO A SNAKE.

* MOVE ON. ALSO SNAKE.

** MAY YOU BECOME A SNAKE.

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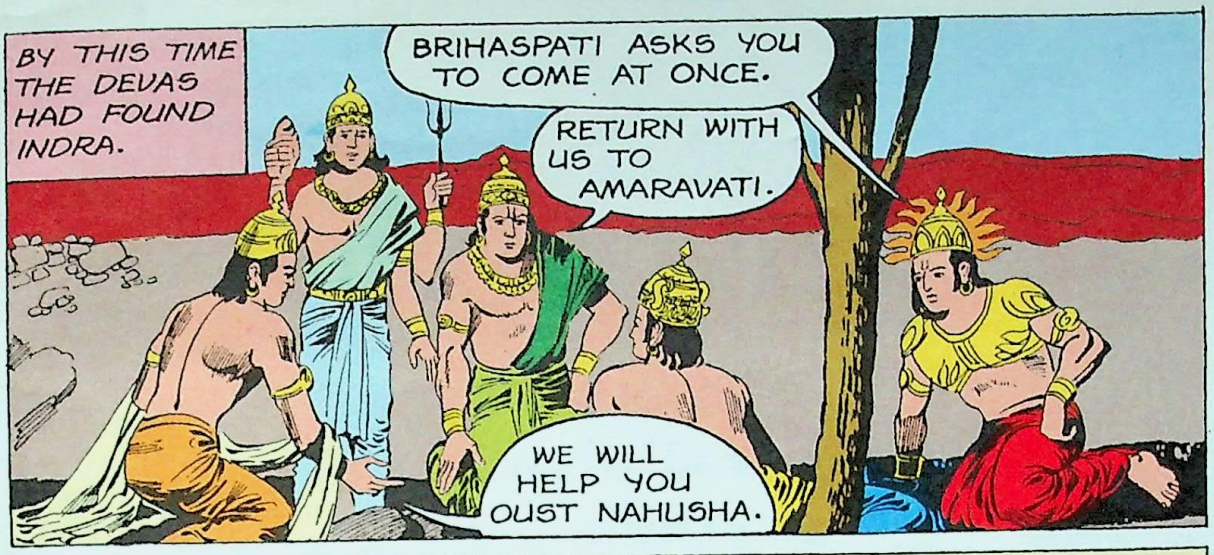

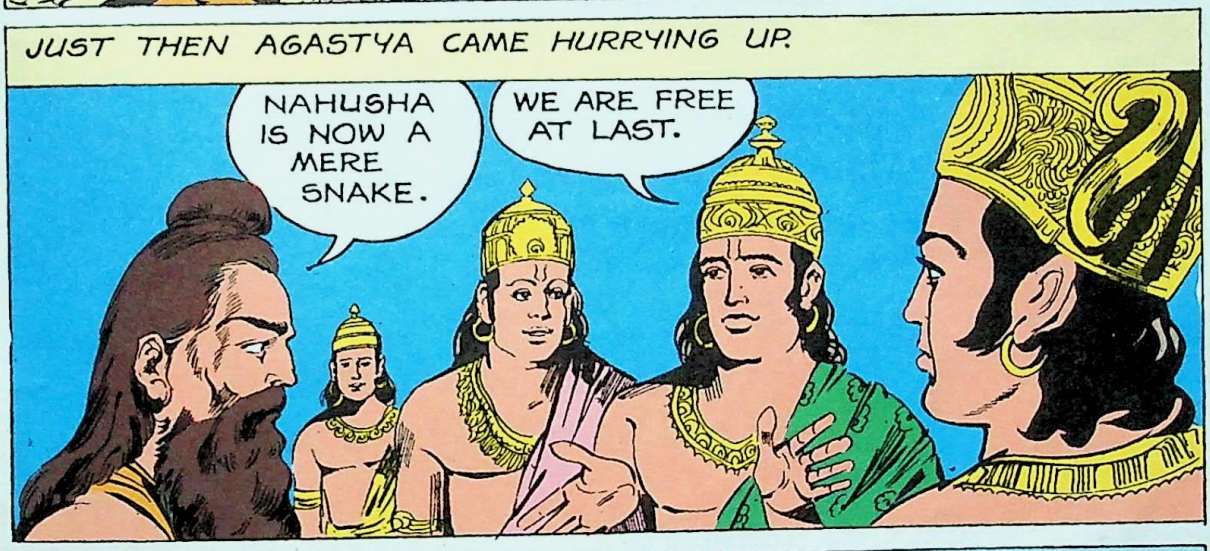

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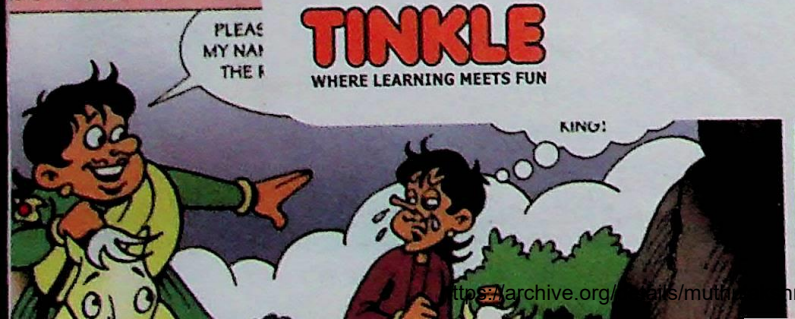

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INDRA AND SHACHI

Even gods can be prey to their inner torments. Lying and killing for the sake of peace and order, Indra felt he was unworthy of being king of heaven. A new king was installed on his throne! Now it was up to Indra's wife Shachi to ensure that his honour survived. Would the gods ever regain their respect for her beloved?

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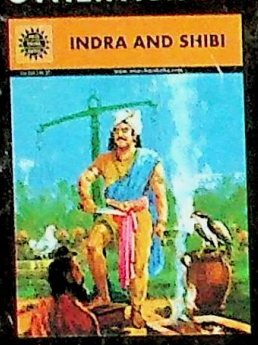

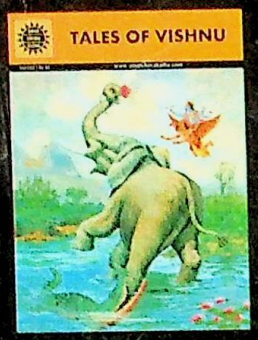

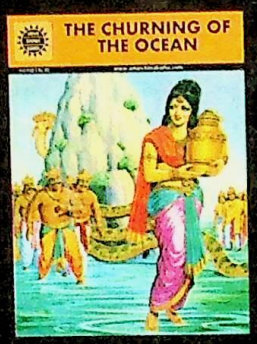

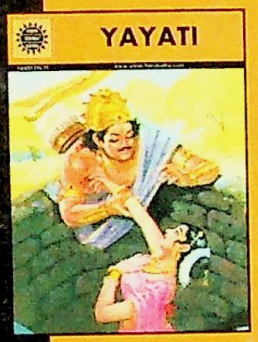

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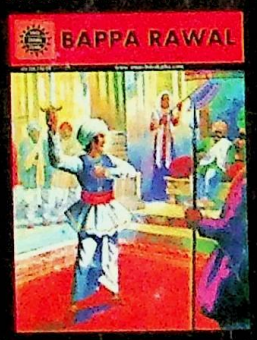

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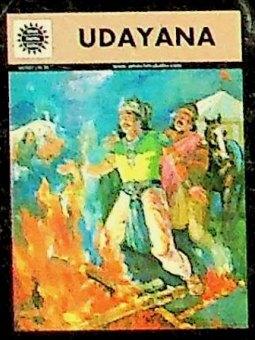

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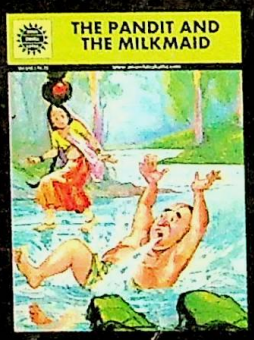

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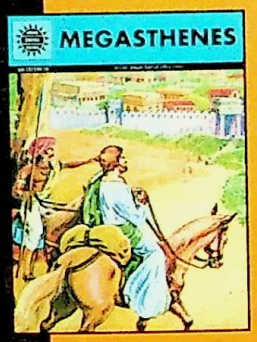

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